Rengaswamy is a farmer in the Adoni region of Andhra Pradesh, India, where he lives with his wife and three children. He is one of many farmers to participate in CropLife International’s stewardship training programmes.

In 2010, Rengaswamy became leader of his local farmer club, established to help farmers continue to share information and benefit the community after they complete their training. “After getting the training, we are motivating the farmers and trying to take each farmer into a better future,” he stated.

When Rengaswamy’s 25 member club meets once a month, they collect 100 rupees from each member that is used for community development projects such as water sanitation, organising animal veterinary camps and planting trees.

CropLife International, and their local partner EFFORT, help farmers establish these types of clubs to encourage continued collaboration among farmers. “It benefitted my family [and] each and everyone in the village and our surrounding villages.” said Rengaswamy, citing good yields on his farm and an improved knowledge of agriculture since receiving his training.

“[The club] is definitely helping the development of the community,” he said. “I am proud to get the opportunity to help, to serve, and be proud. We see that positive things have happened, and we are happy with that.”

Rengaswamy said he thinks it will serve as a model in the region. “We expect many farmers to come forward and look at us as they set up clubs,” he said. “They can share knowledge and ideas and make progress and become prosperous. I wish to take this issue forward throughout the country.”